

**"EXPRESS MAIL" MAILING LABEL NUMBER EL416003822US**

Form PTO-1380 REV.10-94)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTORNEYS DOCKET NUMBER <b>RN97085</b>
TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/elected office (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371				U.S. APPLICATION NO. (IF KNOWN, SEE 37 CFR 1.5) <b>09/463525</b> NOT APPLICABLE
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. <b>PCT/FR98/01682</b>	INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE <b>July 29, 1998</b>	PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED <b>July 30, 1997</b>		
<b>TITLE OF INVENTION</b> <b>MASKED MIXED ISOCYANATE COMPOSITION AND ITS USE IN POWDER PAINT</b>				
<b>APPLICANT (S) FOR DO/EO/US:</b> <b>Jean-Marie BERNARD</b>				
<p>Applicant herewith submits the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a <b>FIRST</b> submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U S C 371</li> <li>2 <input type="checkbox"/> This is a <b>SECOND</b> or <b>SUBSEQUENT</b> submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U S C 371</li> <li>3 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U S C 371) (f) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U S C 371 (b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(1)</li> <li>4 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date</li> <li>5 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U S C 371(c)(2)) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <input type="checkbox"/> is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).</li> <li>b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> has been transmitted by the International Bureau.</li> <li>c. <input type="checkbox"/> is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US)</li> </ul> </li> <li>6 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A translation of the International Application into English (35 U S C 371(c)(2)).</li> <li>7 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Search Report (PCT/ISA/210)</li> <li>8 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U S C 371(c)(2)). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <input type="checkbox"/> are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International</li> <li>b. <input type="checkbox"/> have been transmitted by the International Bureau</li> <li>c. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made, however the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.</li> <li>d. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> have not been made and will not be made.</li> </ul> </li> <li>9 <input type="checkbox"/> A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U S C 371(c)(3)).</li> <li>10 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U S C 371(c)(4)). (signed)</li> <li>11 <input type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Preliminary Examination Report (PCT/IPEA/409).</li> <li>12 <input type="checkbox"/> A translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U S C 371(c)(5)).</li> </ul> <p><b>Items 13 to 18 below concern document(s) or information included:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>13 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98</li> <li>14 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An assignment document for recording A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included</li> <li>15 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <b>FIRST</b> preliminary amendment A <b>SECOND</b> or <b>SUBSEQUENT</b> preliminary amendment</li> <li>16 <input type="checkbox"/> A substitute specification.</li> <li>17 <input type="checkbox"/> A change of power of attorney and/or address letter</li> <li>18 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certificate of Mailing by Express Mail</li> <li>19 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other items or information</li> <li>20 <b>Forms PCT/IB/308 and 332, PCT/ISA/210, PCT/IPEA/416 &amp; 409, PCT/FR98/01682as published</b></li> </ul>				

US APPLICATION NO. <small>IF KNOWN SEE 37 CFR 15</small> <b>09/463525</b>	INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. <b>PCT/FR98/01682</b>	ATTORNEY DOCKET NUMBER <b>RN97085</b>																																																																				
<p>20 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following fees are submitted:  <b>BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1) - (5)):</b>            Search Report has been prepared by the EPO or JPO.....</p> <table> <tr> <td>International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1,482)</td> <td>\$930.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>.....</td> <td>\$720.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No international preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1,482) but international search fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1,4445 (a)(2))...</td> <td>\$790.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Neither International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1,482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1,4445 (a)(2)) paid to USPTO..</td> <td>\$970.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1,482) and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(2)-(4) .....</td> <td>\$ 98.00</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =</b></p> <table> <tr> <td>Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1,492(e)).</td> <td>\$ 840.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>\$ 0.00</td> </tr> </table>		International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1,482)	\$930.00	.....	\$720.00	No international preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1,482) but international search fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1,4445 (a)(2))...	\$790.00	Neither International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1,482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1,4445 (a)(2)) paid to USPTO..	\$970.00	International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1,482) and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(2)-(4) .....	\$ 98.00	Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1,492(e)).	\$ 840.00		\$ 0.00	<b>CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY</b>																																																						
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<p>a <input type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the above fees is enclosed</p> <p>b <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Please charge my Deposit Account No. <b>18-1171</b> in the amount of <b>\$1,042.00</b> to cover the above fees.</p> <p>c <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 18-1171 A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.</p>																																																																						
<p><b>NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1,494 or 1,495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137 (a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.</b></p> <p><i>Jean-Louis Seugnet</i></p>																																																																						
<p><b>SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:</b>  <b>Jean-Louis SEUGNET</b>  <b>RHODIA INC.</b>  <b>259 Prospect Plains Road</b>  <b>CN 7500</b>  <b>Cranbury, NJ 08512</b></p>		<p><b>SIGNATURE</b>  <i>Jean-Louis Seugnet</i></p> <p><b>Jean-Louis SEUGNET</b>  <b>NAME</b>  <b>Limited Recognition under 37 CFR § 10.9(b)</b>  <b>enclosed.</b></p>																																																																				
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EXPRESS MAIL # EL416003805US

09/463525  
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Case RN97085

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**In the Application of: Jean-Marie BERNARD**

**National Phase of PCT/98/01682**

**International Filing Date: July 29, 1998**

**Serial No:**

**Filing Date: January 26, 2000**

**For: MIXED MASKED ISOCYANATE COMPOSITION AND ITS USE  
IN POWDERED PAINT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Dear Sir:

Prior to calculation of filing fee, please enter the following amendment in the specification and claims:

**In the specification:**

Page 1, just after the title, please add: -- This application is an application under 35 U.S.C. Section 371 of International Application Number PCT/FR98/01682, filed on July 29, 1998. --

Page 29, line 1, please cancel "CLAIMS" and replace it with --What is claimed is:--

**In the claims:**

Please cancel claims 1 to 26 and add the following new claims 27 to 55:

27. An isocyanate composition at least partially masked, comprising at least one non-carbon-based carboxylic function and being at least partially masked with at least one masking agent.
28. A composition according to Claim 27, wherein said carboxylic function is grafted onto the composition by reaction of a precursor of said composition, of an agent bearing a carboxylic function and of a function which reacts with a free isocyanate function.
29. A composition according to Claim 28, wherein said agent bearing a carboxylic function and a function which reacts with a free isocyanate function is a masking agent bearing a carboxylic function.
30. A composition according to Claim 27, wherein said composition is a composition masked with at least two masking agents, at least one of which contains a non-carbon-based carboxylic function.
31. A composition according to Claim 29, wherein the ratio in equivalents between the carboxylic functions, and the isocyanate functions which are masked, free and which have reacted with any agent bearing carboxylic functions, on the other hand, is at least equal to 5%.
32. A composition according to Claim 31, wherein the ratio is at least equal to 20%.
33. A composition according to Claim 29, wherein the ratio in equivalents between the carboxylic functions, and the isocyanate functions which are masked, free and

which have reacted with any agent bearing carboxylic functions, is not more than about 9/10.

34. A composition according to Claim 33, wherein the ratio, is not more than about one third.

35. A composition according to Claim 27, wherein said non-carbon-based carboxylic function is an acid or a salt thereof.

36. A composition according to Claim 35, wherein said non-carbon-based carboxylic function is an acid function.

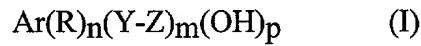
37. A composition according to Claim 27, wherein said masking agent containing a carboxylic function represents, in equivalents, at least 10% of the masking agent.

38. A composition according to Claim 37, wherein said masking agent containing a carboxylic function represents, in equivalents, at least 20% of the masking agent.

39. A composition according to Claim 27, wherein said masking agent containing a carboxylic function contains, per masking agent, not more than 4 freely rotating methyl or methylene groups.

40. A composition according to Claim 39, wherein said masking agent containing a carboxylic function contains, per masking agent, not more than 2 freely rotating methyl or methylene groups.

41. A composition according to Claim 27, wherein said masking agent containing a carboxylic function corresponds to the formula:



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wherein: Ar is an aromatic group to which are grafted n substituents R, m is the number of polar functions Z representing the carboxylic acid function or the salt thereof, and p is the number of hydroxyl functions; with the further proviso that the values of n, m and p are such that the sum n + m + p is not more than 2.

42. A composition according to Claim 41, wherein p is not more than 1.
43. A composition according to Claim 27, wherein said carboxylic function is directly linked to an aromatic ring.
44. A composition according to Claim 27, further comprising a masking agent not bearing a carboxylic function.
45. A composition according to Claim 44, wherein the masking agent not bearing a carboxylic function is selected from the group consisting of oximes, lactams, pyrazoles, and triazoles.
46. A composition according to Claim 27, wherein said isocyanate composition is formed from an oligo-condensate or an oligomer containing at least one masked aliphatic isocyanate function.
47. A composition according to Claim 46, wherein said masked aliphatic function is connected via an  $sp^3$ -type carbon, optionally bearing one or two hydrogen atoms.
48. A composition according to Claim 47, wherein said aliphatic function is neither secondary nor tertiary nor neopentyl.
49. A composition according to Claim 48, wherein said isocyanate composition is obtained from an at least partial masking of a mixture obtained by oligomerization or

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**Preliminary Amendment**

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oligocondensation starting with several monomers, at least one of which contains at least one aliphatic function which is neither secondary nor tertiary nor neopentyl.

50. A composition according to Claim 48, wherein said isocyanate composition is obtained from an at least partial masking of a mixture obtained by oligomerization or oligocondensation starting with several monomers, at least one of which contains at least two aliphatic functions which are neither secondary nor tertiary nor neopentyl.

51. A composition according to Claim 50, wherein the units obtained from monomers which contain at least one, advantageously two, aliphatic functions which are neither secondary nor tertiary nor neopentyl bear at least 2/3 masked isocyanate functions.

52. A composition according to Claim 27, wherein the masking agent not bearing a carboxylic function is a triazole.

53. A composition according to Claim 27, further comprising an organic base.

54. A composition according to Claim 53, wherein said base is a tertiary amine.

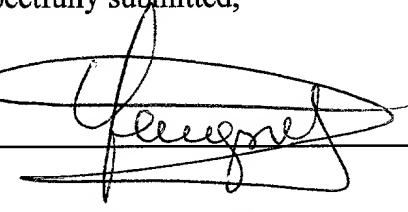
55. A powder paint formulation, comprising a composition as defined in Claim 27.

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**Preliminary Amendment**  
**PCT/FR98/01682**

**REMARKS**

It is asserted that these amendments do not add new matter. Support for these amendments can be found in the specification and claims as originally filed. Entry of these amendments is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

January 26, 2000

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CN7500,  
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F/Brevet/RN97085jls.prelim

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09/463525

428 Rec'd PCT/PTO 26 JAN 2000  
PCT/FR98/01628

EL416003822US

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**MIXED MASKED ISOCYANATE COMPOSITION  
AND ITS USE IN POWDERED PAINT**

The present invention relates to a novel  
5 family of masked isocyanates. The invention relates  
more particularly to isocyanates masked using two  
masking agents, and to their use in coating techniques  
using powders.

For reasons associated with environmental  
10 protection and safety at work, efforts are increasingly  
being made to eliminate the use of solvents in coating  
techniques, and in particular in painting.

In this context, coating techniques using  
powders are being developed more and more.

15 Masked isocyanates are beginning to be used,  
but their use is limited by the fact that there are so  
few compounds which satisfy the chemical requirements  
of the powders.

A first difficulty lies in the problem of  
20 finding masked isocyanates or mixtures of masked  
isocyanates which remain in powdered form under the  
usual storage conditions, it being possible for these  
conditions to vary considerably from one place to  
another. This implies that these compounds should have  
25 a relatively high melting point and/or glass transition

temperature (Tg).

The derivatives which are the subject of the present study do not always have a sharp melting point and thus, in this case, an apparent melting point is determined, either using a Koffler block or using a method of the so-called capillary type (for example the so-called "Büchi" melting point).

A glass transition temperature can be measured by differential thermal analysis (DTA) techniques.

It is also necessary for these compounds to have glass transition temperatures and melting points that are low enough for them to be able to react under the conditions in which the powders are used.

The compounds derived from crosslinking reactions should, in addition, not be harmful either to human or animal health or to the environment.

Consequently, one of the aims of the present invention is to provide a novel family of masked isocyanates which meets the constraints outlined above.

Another aim of the present invention is to provide compositions which can be used in powder coating and which contain masked isocyanates.

Another aim of the present invention is to provide a process for synthesizing isocyanates which meet the above constraints.

These aims and others which will become apparent hereinbelow are achieved by means of a composition whose isocyanate component is formed from at least partially masked isocyanate(s), said 5 isocyanate component bearing at least one non-carbon-based carboxylic function masked with at least one masking agent.

The carboxylic function is advantageously in intimate mixture with the isocyanate component of the 10 composition. To do this, it is even desirable for said carboxylic function to be grafted onto the composition by reaction of a precursor of said composition, of an agent bearing a carboxylic function and of a function which reacts with a free isocyanate function. In other 15 words, it is desirable for the carboxylic function to be grafted onto the isocyanate system via an agent bearing both a function which is reactive (i.e. which contains a "labile" hydrogen) with the isocyanate function and a carboxylic function (COOH in salt form 20 or, advantageously, in free form).

This agent bearing a carboxylic function and a function which is reactive (i.e. which contains a so-called labile hydrogen) with the isocyanate function is advantageously a masking agent. This means that it is 25 released (octanol test) at a temperature of not more than 250°C, advantageously 200°C (2 significant

figures), preferably 180°C.

When the carboxylic functions are borne by agents which are not released under the firing conditions, in order to conserve the crosslinking power, it is desirable for the amount of acid borne by the agents which is not released to be not more than 1/2, advantageously 1/3 of the total amount of the isocyanate functions (which are free, masked and linked to a non-releaseable masking agent).

10           The masking agents most commonly used are those mentioned by M. Wicks in his article "blocked isocyanates" [Progress in Organic Coatings (1975), Vol. 3, p. 73].

15           In the context of the present invention, the preferred masking agents are those whose temperature for deblocking (or demasking) from the aliphatic isocyanates is at least equal to 90°C, advantageously 100°C (two significant figures), preferably 110°C. (cf. below: octanol test).

20           It is desirable for the glass transition temperature ( $T_g$ ) of the masked isocyanate, when the masking agent under consideration is used alone to mask the isocyanate targeted by the person skilled in the art, not to be very much below 0°C (temperature at 25 least equal to about 260°K, advantageously about 270°K, preferably about 280°K). This is because the carboxylic

function, in general, hardly makes it possible to increase the glass transition temperature ( $T_g$ ) by more than  $30^{\circ}\text{C}$ . This is particularly true for the preferred isocyanates (such as HDT) of the present invention,  
5 i.e. the isocyanates mainly obtained (i.e. representing at least a half) from monomers (for example HDI) which contain at least one, advantageously two, aliphatic functions which are neither secondary nor tertiary nor neopentyl.

10 In the present description, the term "about" is used to highlight the fact that the values following it correspond to mathematical round-ups, and in particular that when the figure(s) furthest to the right in a number is (are) zeros, these zeros are  
15 positional zeros rather than significant figures, except, of course, where otherwise mentioned.

The masking agents can be divided into three main groups:

⇒ those in which the labile hydrogen is borne by a  
20 chalcogen,

⇒ those in which the labile hydrogen is borne by a nitrogen,

⇒ those in which the labile hydrogen is borne by carbon.

25 Among those in which the labile hydrogen is borne by a chalcogen (preferably light chalcogens, i.e.

sulfur and oxygen), the ones especially used are those in which the chalcogen is an oxygen; among the latter, mention may be made in particular of:

- products containing an >N-OH linkage, such as,  
5 for example, oximes (=N-OH) or hydroxy imides ( $[-CO-]_2N-OH$ ); and
- phenols (in the broad sense), especially those  
10 in which the aromatic ring is electron-poor, such as hydroxypicolines and hydroxybenzoates (cf. for example EP-A 680 984 and WO 98/4608).

Mention may also be made of the compounds described in patent application EP-A 661 278.

Among those in which the labile hydrogen is formed by a nitrogen, mention may be made in particular 15 of:

- monosubstituted amides, and in particular lactams (the one usually used is caprolactam),
- imides ( $[-CO-]_2N-H$ ), especially cyclic amides such as succinimide,
- 20 - unsaturated nitrogenous heterocycles, in particular those which are 5-membered (advantageously doubly unsaturated), preferably comprising at least two hetero atoms (preferably nitrogen); among the latter, mention may be made of diazoles (such as glyoxalines and pyrazoles), triazoles or even 25 tetrazoles.

- mention may also be made of the compounds described in patent application EP-A 661 278.

The masking agents in which the labile hydrogen is borne by carbon are essentially compounds 5 of malonic nature, i.e. a radical RCH<sub>2</sub> bearing two electron-withdrawing groups (such as carbonyl [for example ketone, acid, ester or even acid salt], nitrile, Rf or [perfluoroalkyl]).

In order to avoid excessively weighting the 10 masked molecules, it is desirable for the masking agents not bearing said non-carbon-based carboxylic function to contain not more than 10 carbon atoms, advantageously not more than 7 carbon atoms, preferably not more than 5.

15 It is easier and thus preferable for the masking group to bear the labile hydrogen which reacts with the isocyanate function via an oxygen or a nitrogen to give the -NH-CO-O- sequence (i.e. R-NCO + HO- → R-NH-CO-O-) or the sequence -NH-CO-N< (i.e. R- 20 NCO + HN< → R-NH-CO-N<).

Thus, it is preferable for said isocyanate component to be a composition masked with at least two masking agents, at least one of which contains a non-carbon-based carboxylic function, i.e. the carboxylic 25 function does not bear a carbon-based radical apart from the one which corresponds to the acid, and thus a

non-carbon-based carboxylic function which does not comprise esters.

Advantageously, said non-carbon-based carboxylic function is chosen from acids and salts 5 thereof (preferably inorganic salts). It is desirable for said non-carbon-based carboxylic function to be an acid function (-COOH). The free acid form is preferred.

Thus, it is possible to envisage several groups (preferably 2 for reasons of economy) for 10 masking the isocyanate functions. This diversity can be achieved by mixing various masked compounds (in general masked with a single group) or preferably by co-reaction (successive, by reacting one and then the other masking agent, or simultaneous, by carrying out 15 the masking action on the mixture of masking agents).

The presence of a carboxylic acid function (-COOH) and in particular of a carboxylic acid function directly grafted onto an aromatic ring, advantageously a benzene ring, makes it possible to increase the 20 melting point of the masked isocyanate. However, in order to conserve the excellent mechanical properties of the system according to the present invention, it is preferable for the amount of acid function present (in equivalents) to be not more than about 9/10, 25 advantageously not more than about 4/5, preferably not more than 2/3 of the masked isocyanate functions. The

beneficial effects of the acid functions on the glass transition temperature ( $T_g$ ) already become apparent above about 10%, but it is desirable to achieve a proportion of at least 20%. The melting point and the 5 glass transition temperature ( $T_g$ ) increase continually as the acid content increases, up to 100%. However, it is preferable for the content of masking agent bearing a non-carbon-based carboxylic function to be not more than 90%.

10 According to one embodiment of the present invention, these groups masking an isocyanate component may all be as defined above (cf. formula (I)) or alternatively only some of them may satisfy these definitions. In the latter case, it is preferable for 15 those (i.e. the sum of those) which bear a carbonyl (ester or acid) function advantageously to correspond to formula (I) below and to correspond at least to about 10% (expressed as masked isocyanate function), advantageously about 20%, preferably to 1/3.

20 Thus, one of the most advantageous embodiments consists in using isocyanates which are at least partially masked with a compound bearing an acid function, advantageously with a compound of formula I in which Z is an acid function. In this case, it is 25 advisable that the isocyanate be masked with a group other than the one bearing the acid function, and that

the acid function of the masking system be between 90 and 10% (expressed as masked isocyanate function). The other masking agent(s) may be either masking agents that are known per se (which meet the constraints of 5 release temperature or the masking temperature specified in the present description), or an ester corresponding to formula I. This latter term of the alternative is one of the preferred embodiments.

For the synthesis of the compounds according 10 to the present invention, reference may be made to the general procedures, in particular those in patent application No. EP 0 680 984 A, which give good results for the (optionally partial) masking operation with a compound of formula I.

Curiously, the presence of a carboxylic group 15 does not pose any problem for the masking operation. The masking functions react as if the carboxylic groups were not there. However, it is preferable to carry out the masking reaction at temperatures of not more than 20 about 150°C, advantageously 130°C, preferably 110°C (if a particularly low degree of free isocyanate is desired).

The presence of organic base catalyzes the masking reaction (see below) and generally does not 25 exceed 10% (as masked isocyanate function equivalents), or even 5%.

It is preferable to carry out the reaction such that, at the end of the additions, the system is close to the isocyanate/masking agent stoichiometry  $\pm 10\%$ ,  $5\%$ ,  $2\%$ .

5 As has already been mentioned according to the present invention, it is preferable for the melting point of the compound or of the mixture of compounds obtained to show an apparent melting point at least equal to  $30^\circ\text{C}$ , preferably  $50^\circ\text{C}$ .

10 It is also preferable for the glass transition temperature to be at least equal to  $20^\circ\text{C}$ , advantageously at least equal to  $40^\circ\text{C}$ .

15 It is preferable to select the compounds according to the present invention such that they react completely with a primary alcohol at  $250^\circ\text{C}$  in less than half an hour.

It is considered that the reaction is complete if it proceeds to 90% or more.

As has been mentioned above, the isocyanates 20 for which the invention is most advantageous are those in which the nitrogen atom is linked to an  $\text{sp}^3$ - hybridized carbon, and more particularly aliphatic ones, and in particular polymethylene diisocyanates (for example TMDI, tetramethylene diisocyanate, and 25 HMDI [hexamethylene diisocyanate =  $\text{OCN-(CH}_2)_6\text{-NCO}$ ] and the various condensation derivatives thereof (biuret,

etc.) and di- and "trimerization" derivatives thereof, (in the field considered, the term "trimer" refers to mixtures derived from the formation of isocyanuric rings from three isocyanate functions; in fact, along 5 with the true trimer, there are heavier products derived from trimerization).

According to the present invention, it is desirable and sometimes necessary for the percentage of residual free isocyanate function (expressed as 10 equivalents) attached to a skeleton comprising an exocyclic polymethylene chain (cf. above) to be not more than 5%, advantageously not more than 3%, preferably not more than 1%. The highest melting points or glass transition temperatures are obtained with 15 percentages not exceeding 0.5%. The contents of aromatic derivatives hydroxylated on the ring are also advantageously low, i.e. not more than 5%, advantageously not more than 3%, preferably not more than 1%.

20 On the other hand, up to a mass content of 1/3, the presence in said isocyanate of unmasked oligomer (especially trimer) or oligo-condensates of cycloaliphatic monomers such as IPDT or nBDT has a very favorable effect on the glass transition temperature 25 (Tg) and does not in any way impede the production of a high-quality coating. Such compositions can be readily

obtained by mixing the unmasked trimer in the molten masked compound.

According to the present invention, the isocyanate is advantageously masked with at least one 5 masking group bearing at least one function derived from acidic functions and in particular acid and ester functions. The masking can be mixed and can involve several masking groups.

It is desirable that, in the structure of the 10 isocyanate(s), the part of the skeleton which connects two isocyanate functions should contain at least one polymethylene sequence  $(CH_2)_n$  in which  $n$  represents an integer from 2 to 10, advantageously from 4 to 8. This preference affects the mechanical performance. When 15 there are several sequences, these sequences can be the same or different. In addition, it is desirable for at least one, preferably all, of these sequences to be freely rotating and thus exocyclic.

The degree of release is quantified by the 20 octanol test (see below).

According to the present invention, the masked isocyanate, pure or mixed, is obtained from a polyisocyanate, i.e. a product containing at least two isocyanate functions, advantageously more than two 25 (possibilities of fractional values since it is generally a mixture of more or less condensed

oligomers), which is itself usually derived from a precondensation or a prepolymerization of unitary diisocyanate (sometimes referred to in the present description as "monomer").

5           In general, the average molecular mass of these prepolymers or of these precondensates is not more than 2000 (one significant figure), more commonly not more than 1000 (one significant figure, preferably two).

10           One notable exception to these values lies in precondensates between polyols with a molecular mass of greater than 2000 and less than 15,000. This relates to the number-average molecular mass,  $\bar{M}_n$ , which ranges between 2000 and 15,000 g/mol. The molecular mass is  
15 determined by gel permeation chromatography (GPC). The gels used in the technique are two polystyrene gels (Ultrastyragel® at  $10^4$  and 500 Å), THF as solvent and sulfur as standards. However, these prepolymers are not always the best.

20           Thus, among the polyisocyanates used for the invention, mention may be made of those of the biuret type and those in which the di- or trimerization reaction has led to four-, five- or six-membered rings. Among the six-membered rings, mention may be made of  
25 the isocyanuric rings derived from a homo- or hetero-trimerization of various diisocyanates alone, with

other isocyanate(s) [mono-, di- or polyisocyanate(s)] or with carbon dioxide. In this case, a nitrogen of the isocyanuric ring is replaced with an oxygen. Oligomers containing isocyanuric rings are preferred.

5       The preferred polyisocyanates are those which contain at least one aliphatic isocyanate function. In other words, at least one masked isocyanate function according to the invention is connected to the skeleton via an  $sp^3$ -type carbon advantageously bearing a hydrogen atom, preferably two. It is desirable for said  $sp^3$ -type carbon itself to be borne by an  $sp^3$ -type carbon and advantageously to contain one, preferably two, hydrogen atoms, so as to avoid the isocyanate function concerned being in a neopentyl position. In other words, it is 10 recommended to choose as monomers (which, in general, bear two isocyanate functions) at least one compound which bears at least one aliphatic function which is 15 neither secondary nor tertiary nor neopentyl.

In the case of the mixture obtained from 20 several (in general two) types of monomer, it is preferable for the monomer(s) which satisfy the above conditions and/or (advantageously "and") the condition regarding the presence of a polymethylene sequence  $(CH_2)_n$ , to represent at least 1/3, advantageously 1/2, 25 preferably 2/3 of the masked isocyanate functions. Thus, during the study according to the present

invention, excellent results have been obtained with mixtures comprising 2/3 of HMDT (hexamethylene diisocyanate "trimer") with IPDI or IPDT (IPDI "trimer"), the two being masked according to the 5 invention (the nBDI, norbornane diisocyanate, and its trimer are similar).

Needless to say, the case in which all of the isocyanates are aliphatic and, what is more, satisfy the above criterion is preferred.

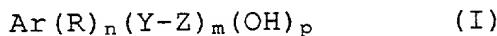
10 According to one particularly advantageous embodiment of the present invention, an agent corresponding to the general formula of those targeted in European patent application EP-A 661 278 can be used as masking agent bearing said non-carbon-based 15 carboxylic function. The other agent(s) can also correspond to said general formula, as is the case for the para-hydroxybenzoic acid/alkyl para-hydroxybenzoate couple. The essence of EP-A 661 278 will be found below.

20 The agents leading to the characteristic masking group(s) of the invention are advantageously chosen from those which are derived from the condensation of an aromatic derivative which is hydroxylated on the ring and bears a function chosen 25 from nitrile functions, and preferably carbonyl functions, with an isocyanate. It goes without saying

that the condensation takes place on the phenol function.

Among the members of this family, those for which it is possible to determine an apparent melting point should be selected, this measurement being carried out at room temperature (20°C). This melting point should be at least equal to 30°C (one significant figure), advantageously at least equal to 50°C.

Among the compounds of formula (I), acids and salts thereof (alkali metal, alkaline-earth metal, ammonium and/or quaternary phosphonium salts) will be chosen as first masking agent, but the others can be chosen as second or third masking agent.



in which Ar is an aromatic residue onto which are grafted n substituents R, m polar functions Z chosen from nitriles and carbonyl groups, and p hydroxyl functions.

The values of n, m and p are such that the sum n + m + p is not more than the number of substitutable members; advantageously, p is not more than 2 and is preferably equal to 1.

Advantageously, m is not more than two and is preferably equal to 1.

Advantageously n is not more than 3, it is preferably chosen from zero, 1 and 2, and is more

preferably equal to zero.

R represents substituents that have no bearing on the masking reaction and generally correspond to hydrocarbon-based chains, usually alkyl chains in the etymological sense of the term, i.e. an alcohol whose hydroxyl function has been removed.

Two vicinal substituents R can be joined together to form a ring which can be aromatic, for example.

Z is advantageously chosen from groups containing a carbonyl function. Among these functions, mention should be made of alkoxy carbonyl functions (or, in other words, ester functions), the amide function, the ketone function with the preferential condition that there are no acidic hydrogens [in other words, the function advantageously does not bear hydrogen, or, if it does bear hydrogen, the corresponding pKa is at least equal to about 20 (one significant figure, preferably 2), more preferably at least equal to about 25]  $\alpha$  to the carbonyl function (ester, ketone or amide]. Thus, the preferred amides (including lactam, or even urea) are advantageously substituted, preferably enough for there to be no hydrogen on the nitrogen of the amide function or such that there are no reactive hydrogens.

In which Y is chosen from divalent groups,

advantageously -O-, -S-, NR'-, -CR'R"- with R' and R" chosen from hydrocarbon-based radicals, advantageously alkyl radicals, of 1 to 6 carbon atoms, advantageously of 1 to 4 carbon atoms, preferably methyl, more 5 preferably hydrogen, and preferably Y represents a single bond [sic].

It is preferable for the polar function(s) Z (in general chosen from the nitrile function and/or carbonyl functions) not to be vicinal to the group Z, 10 as, for example, in salicylic acid.

The aromatic residue Ar consists of one or more advantageously fused, hetero- or homocyclic rings. It is preferable for Ar not to contain more than two rings, and preferably not more than one ring.

15 The aromatic residue Ar can consist of one or more hetero- or homocyclic rings, usually homocyclic on account of their ease of access. However, the advantage of 6-membered heterocycles, which have a much lower release temperature than that of the corresponding 20 homocycles, should be pointed out.

It is desirable for the total number of carbons in the aromatic derivative hydroxylated on the ring to be not more than 20, preferably not more than 10 (one significant figure).

25 This ring is advantageously 6-membered, the members consisting of carbon or nitrogen with the

number of substituents required for the valency of these atoms.

Among the acids and derivatives, in particular esters, which give the most satisfactory results, mention should be made of acids grafted onto a benzene ring or onto pyridine rings. Thus, meta-hydroxybenzoic acids, and especially para-hydroxybenzoic acids, and derivatives thereof give good results.

According to one particularly advantageous variant of the present invention, the hydroxyarylcarboxylic acids, and in particular the hydroxybenzoic acids, can be combined with one (or more) of the usual masking agents, such as oxime, lactam, pyrazole or triazole, provided that they satisfy the glass transition temperature (Tg) and melting point constraints.

The combinations comprising at least one triazole, which is advantageously unsubstituted, and at least one agent bearing a carboxylic function, chosen in particular from hydroxyarylcarboxylic acids, are particularly advantageous.

Thus, it is desirable for said masking agent containing a carboxylic function to represent, in equivalents, at least 10% of all the masking agents, advantageously at least 20% of all the masking agents,

preferably 1/3, but the effects are very marked when the proportion approaches or exceeds 50%.

However, when the carboxylic functions are borne by agents which are not released under the curing conditions, in order to conserve the crosslinking power, it is desirable for the amount of acid borne by agents which are not released to be not more than 1/2, advantageously 1/3 of the total amount of isocyanate functions (free, masked or linked to an unreleasable masking agent).

In order to promote the solid form, said masking agent bearing a carboxylic function has, per masking agent, not more than 4, advantageously 2, freely rotating methyl or methylene groups (i.e. groups not engaged in a ring).

In order to reduce the firing (crosslinking) temperature, urethane-forming catalysts such as DBTDL (dibutyltin dilaurate) can be added to the formulation, these being added directly into the premix or as a stock mixture.

The polyols which can be used with the compounds according to the present invention are those known to those skilled in the art.

This is likewise the case for the additives.  
The powdered paints which form the subject of the present invention can advantageously be

manufactured by fusion-blending the compounds of the formulation. First, they are preblended in a blender and then melted, homogenized and dispersed in a single-screw or multi-screw extruder.

5 It is desirable for the mixing, blending and extrusion temperature not to be more than about 130°C, advantageously not more than about 110°C, preferably not more than 100°C (3 significant figures). It is  
desirable for the extrusion temperature to be at least  
10 equal to about 60°C, advantageously at least equal to about 70°C, preferably at least equal to around 80-  
90°C. The extruded material obtained is left to cool,  
it is passed through a mill until a paint of the  
desired particle size is obtained (in general,  $d_{90}$  is  
15 not more than about 200 micrometers, advantageously not  
more than 100 micrometers (two significant figures) and  
 $d_{10}$  is at least equal to about 20 micrometers,  
advantageously at least equal to about 50 micrometers)  
for the purpose of applying it to metal supports such  
20 as steel, aluminum or other alloys, glass, plastic or  
wood.

The ratio between the polyol(s) and the  
isocyanate(s) is defined by the deblocking  
stoichiometry. The amount of isocyanates chosen is  
25 generally the amount stoichiometrically required to  
react with all of the free hydroxyls, with a tolerance

of 20%, advantageously of 10%, preferably of 5%. Since it is preferable to have an excess of isocyanates, slightly unequal ranges are preferred. In other words, the amount of isocyanates to be added is advantageously  
5 at least equal to about 90% and not more than about 120% of the stoichiometric amount; preferably, it is at least equal to 95% and not more than about 110% of the stoichiometric amount; the most common, and thus most desirable, range being at least equal to 100% (three  
10 significant figures) and not more than 105% of the stoichiometric amount. When systems with a high proportion of free acid (for example at least 2/3 of the masked isocyanate functions, see above) are used, it may be envisaged to increase the ratio between  
15 isocyanate and hydroxyl function by about 10 to 30 points (%) relative to the above values.

The catalysts which can be used as catalysts for the masking reaction do not in any way harm the quality of the coatings. If formulations are used which  
20 favor a matt or satin coating, they accentuate the matt nature of the coating, in particular in the case of formulations whose matt nature is associated with carboxylic functions (see in particular PCT patent application WO 98/04608). When glossy formulations are  
25 used, they promote crosslinking.

Thus, organic bases in which the basic

function is borne by a nitrogen or phosphorus atom, nitrogen being preferred, can be present in the composition. It is desirable for the basic atom not to bear any hydrogen. The basicity is at least equal to 5 that of pyridine rings (for example pyridine itself, picolines or quinoline). The preferred bases are phosphines or, preferably, tertiary amines. The tertiary amines can contain from 3 up to about 50 carbon atoms per basic function (it is recalled that it 10 is more practical for there to be only one per molecule). Heavy amines, especially fatty amines, have a favorable effect on the smooth aspect of a painted surface.

Amines also have a favorable effect on the 15 mechanical properties, which indicates a catalysis of the crosslinking in the powder phase.

Admittedly, it is preferable for the organic bases to be, *per se*, relatively non-volatile (b.p. at least equal to 80°C, advantageously 100°C, preferably 20 200°C), but, under the conditions for crosslinking powders, the observation of the low volatility is not very restricting and is, in particular, easily achieved provided that there are free acid functions in the binder in an amount at least equal to the amount of 25 base (expressed in equivalents). If not, it is possible to envisage using heavier bases, i.e. bases whose

molecular mass is at least equal to 100, advantageously 180, preferably fatty bases, i.e. bases whose molecular mass is greater than 250. The organic bases can be pure or a mixture. The amines can comprise other functions  
5 and in particular functions corresponding to amino acid functions and cyclic ether functions such as N-methylmorpholine, or not. These other functions are advantageously in a form which does not react with the isocyanate functions.

10 The amount of amine can be at least equal to about 1% (in equivalents), advantageously 2%, preferably 3% of the masked isocyanate functions in the powder. The amines can be used alone or in combination with the other components of the powder paints.

15 The powder obtained can be applied with an electrostatic gun or by means of a fluid bed. The preferred application of the present invention is that carried out with a Corona effect and Corona charge electrostatic gun or by friction (triboelectric).

20 The substrate onto which the paint is applied, mainly steel or aluminum, may or may not be preheated before the application. Once applied, the powder is melted and cured in an oven for 10 minutes to 2 hours, at a temperature of between 140 and 220°C  
25 depending on whether or not the system is catalyzed, in general for 10 to 30 minutes at a temperature ranging

from 180°C to 220°C.

Given the account hereinabove, a person skilled in the art will adapt the firing recalling that increasing the firing temperature allows the time to be 5 reduced, and vice versa.

The isocyanate compositions and components according to the present invention can be used in powder form. They can also be used in dissolved form. They are of specific value for use in the form of a 10 suspension, especially when the content of free isocyanate is low (free isocyanate(s)/total isocyanate ratio (in equivalents) advantageously not more than 5%, preferably 2%).

The non-limiting examples below illustrate 15 the invention.

In all the examples, HDT or HMDT means hexamethylene diisocyanate trimer known under the trade name Tolonate® HDT and IPDT means isophorone diisocyanate trimer.

20

#### OCTANOL TEST

#### definitions

"Release" (or : This is the lowest temperature at "deblocking") which the agent masking the masked

temperature : isocyanate is displaced to an extent of 9/10 (mathematically rounded-up) by a primary monoalcohol (the primary alcohol is generally octanol).

Shelf life : In order to ensure a good shelf life, it is preferable to choose masked isocyanate functions whose octanol test shows a "release" at 80°C, advantageously at 90°C, of not more than 90%.

Reaction progress : The reaction is considered to be complete if it proceeds to more than 90%.

### procedure

About 5 mmol of protected masked NCO equivalent to be evaluated are loaded into a Schott-  
5 type tube with magnetic stirring.

2.5 to 3 ml of 1,2-dichlorobenzene (solvent) and the equivalent of 1-octanol (5 mmol, i.e. 0.61 g, optionally with the catalyst to be tested with the masking group) are added.

10 The reaction medium is then brought to the test temperature. It is then heated for 6 h at the test temperature so as to deblock the isocyanate functions

and thus make them reactive. Once the reaction is complete, the solvent is removed by distillation under vacuum and the residue is analyzed by NMR, mass spectrum and infrared.

5 From these data, the percentage of masked isocyanate function condensed with the 1-octanol is evaluated.

When the boiling point of one of the constituents is higher than the temperature which it is  
10 desired to test, the process is then performed at the corresponding autogenous pressure.

**Example 1 of the synthesis of HDT masked with a mixture (80/20 mol per mole) of methyl para-hydroxybenzoate and para-hydroxybenzoic acid**

15 136.2 g of Tolonate® HDT product, whose content of isocyanate (NCO) functions is 0.521 mol per 100 g of HDT, are introduced into a 500 ml thermostatically-controlled reactor fitted with a mechanical stirrer. 86.4 g of methyl para-hydroxybenzoate and 19.6 g of para-hydroxybenzoic acid are successively added. The temperature of the reaction medium [lacuna] brought to 86°C and 3.7 g of triethylamine are then added. The temperature of the reaction medium is then brought to 100°C. After 2 h  
20 45 min at 100°C, the reaction medium is cooled and then ground to give a powder. The content of free isocyanate  
25

functions is 1.05% and the Tg of the product is about 30°C.

**Example 2 of the synthesis of HDT masked with a mixture (65/35 mol per mole) of methyl para-hydroxybenzoate and**

**5 para-hydroxybenzoic acid**

200 g of Tolonate® HDT product whose content of isocyanate (NCO) functions is 0.521 mol per 100 g of HDT are introduced into a 500 ml thermostatically-controlled reactor fitted with a mechanical stirrer.

10 113.3 g of methyl para-hydroxybenzoate and 50.4 g of para-hydroxybenzoic acid are successively added. The temperature of the reaction medium is brought to 26°C and 3 g of triethylamine are then added. The temperature of the reaction medium is then brought to

15 93°C. After 30 minutes at 93°C, the temperature of the reaction medium is brought to 130°C. The molten mass is removed, cooled and then ground to give 344 g of powder. The content of free isocyanate functions relative to the HDT is 1.3% and the Tg of the product

20 is about 32°C. Infrared analysis in a KBr disk indicates the presence of peaks for the acid function at 2500 cm<sup>-1</sup>, a very low content, or even an absence, of peaks corresponding to the acid functions (1650 cm<sup>-1</sup> and 1550 cm<sup>-1</sup>) and the presence of carbamate functions.

25 The content of potential isocyanate functions is 12.03%.

**Example 3 of the synthesis of HDT masked with a mixture  
(50/50 mol per mole) of methyl para-hydroxybenzoate and  
para-hydroxybenzoic acid**

The same method as described in Example 2 is  
5 applied. 342 g of white powder are thus recovered.

The content of free NCO, expressed as  
unmasked HDT, is 0.7%, i.e. 0.175% by weight of  
residual NCO functions. The Tg of the product is about  
35°C.

10 The content of potential NCO is 11.95%.

Infrared analysis shows the characteristic  
peaks of the expected product.

**Example 4 of the synthesis of a mixture (85/15% by  
weight) of (HDT/IPDT) masked with a mixture (65/35 mol  
15 per mole) of methyl para-hydroxybenzoate and para-  
hydroxybenzoic acid**

The same procedure as in Example 2 is used,  
except that the mixture of the two polyisocyanates HDT  
and IPDT (119 g and 21 g) is introduced instead of the  
20 HDT, the amounts of masking agent are adjusted and the  
removal takes place at 160°C. After removal and  
cooling, the product is ground.

The Tg of the product is about 35°C and the  
content of free isocyanate functions is 0.2% by weight,  
25 i.e. 0.82% of unmasked HDT.

The infrared spectrum shows the peaks characteristic of the expected product.

**Example 5 of the synthesis of HDT masked with a mixture (94/6 mol per mole) of methyl para-hydroxybenzoate and**

**5 calcium salt of para-hydroxybenzoic acid**

141.25 g of Tolonate® HDT product whose NCO content is 0.521 mol per 100 g of HDT are introduced into a 500 ml thermostatically-controlled reactor fitted with a mechanical stirrer. 111.9 g of methyl 10 para-hydroxybenzoate, 6.07 g of para-hydroxybenzoic acid and 4.4 g of calcium carbonate are successively added. The temperature of the reaction medium is brought to 120°C and maintained for 45 minutes. The reaction mixture is cooled to 80°C and 1.3 g of 15 triethylamine are then added. The temperature of the reaction medium is then brought to 95°C. The reaction medium is removed and ground at room temperature to give a powder. The content of free NOC [sic] is 0.69% and the Tg of the product is about 26°C.

**20 Examples 6 to 19 of the synthesis of HDT masked with a mixture of two masking agents, one of which bears a carboxylic function**

The procedure is, with the necessary changes (masking agents and percentage thereof), that of 25 Example 2 when the isocyanate is HDT alone and that of Example 3 when the isocyanate is an HDT/IPDT mixture.

	Nature and percentage by mass of polyisocyanates		Masking agents as a mol% relative to the NCO functions		Tg in °C
Comp.	polyiso-cyanate 1	polyiso-cyanate	Agent 1	Agent 2	
Ex- amples	HDT/100		triazole/100		<0
7	HDT/100		triazole/90	p-hydroxybenzoic acid/10	19
8	HDT/100		triazole/80	p-hydroxybenzoic acid/20	27
9	HDT/100		triazole/70	p-hydroxybenzoic acid/30	29
10	HDT/100		triazole/60	p-hydroxybenzoic acid/40	30
11	HDT/100		triazole/50	p-hydroxybenzoic acid/50	38
12	HDT/85	IPDT/15	triazole/85	p-hydroxybenzoic acid/15	23
13	HDT/85	IPDT/15	triazole/70	p-hydroxybenzoic acid/30	34
14	HDT/70	IPDT/30	triazole/85	p-hydroxybenzoic acid/15	38
15	HDT/70	IPDT/30	triazole/70	p-hydroxybenzoic acid/30	35
16	HDT/100		triazole/90	para-aminobenzoic acid/10	15 - 20
17	HDT/100		triazole/80	para-amino-benzoic acid/20	26
18	HDT/100		triazole/90	N salt (Nylon salt)*/10	15 - 20
19	HDT/100		triazole/65	6-aminocaproic acid/35	23

\* the Nylon salt is the salt formed from the addition

of hexamethylenediamine to adipic acid (mol/mol)

**Example 20 -qualitative tests**

The syntheses were carried out (according to procedure 2) for the following couples which show an increase in the glass transition temperature (Tg)

- 5 relative to the compound containing no masking agent bearing a carboxylic function.

isocyanate used	masking agent	carrier of non-carbon-based carboxylic function
HDT/100	methyl p-hydroxybenzoate/85	para-hydroxyphenylacetic acid/15
HDT/100	methyl p-hydroxybenzoate/85	cholesteric acid/15
HDT/100	methyl p-hydroxybenzoate/85	hydroxypthalic acid/15
HDT/100	methyl p-hydroxybenzoate/85	para-hydroxybenzamide acid [sic]/15

CLAIMS

1. Isocyanate composition which is at least partially masked, characterized in that it comprises at 5 least one non-carbon-based carboxylic function and is masked with at least one masking agent.

2. Composition according to Claim 1, characterized in that said carboxylic function is grafted onto the composition by reaction of a precursor 10 of said composition, of an agent bearing a carboxylic function and of a function which reacts with a free isocyanate function.

3. Composition according to Claim 2, characterized in that said agent bearing a carboxylic 15 function and a function which reacts with a free isocyanate function is a masking agent bearing a carboxylic function.

4. Composition according to Claims 1 to 3, characterized in that said composition is a composition 20 masked with at least two masking agents, at least one of which contains a non-carbon-based carboxylic function.

5. Composition according to Claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the ratio (in equivalents) 25 between the carboxylic functions, on the one hand, and

the isocyanate functions (which are masked, free and which have reacted with any agent bearing carboxylic functions), on the other hand, is at least equal to 5%, advantageously 10%, preferably 20%.

5       6. Composition according to Claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the ratio (in equivalents) between the carboxylic functions, on the one hand, and the isocyanate functions (which are masked, free and which have reacted with any agent bearing carboxylic 10 functions), on the other hand, is not more than about 9/10, advantageously about 4/5, preferably 2/3, more preferably one third.

15     7. Composition according to Claims 1 to 6, characterized in that when the carboxylic functions are borne by agents which are not released under the firing conditions, in order to conserve the crosslinking power, it is desirable for the amount of acid borne by agents which is not released to be not more than 1/2, advantageously 1/3 of the total amount of the 20 isocyanate functions (which are free, masked and linked to an unreleasable masking agent).

8.     Composition according to Claims 1 to 7, characterized in that said non-carbon-based carboxylic function is chosen from acids and salts thereof.

25     9.    Composition according to Claims 1 to 8,

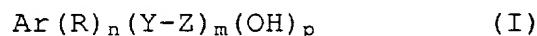
characterized in that said non-carbon-based carboxylic function is an acid function (-COOH).

10. Composition according to Claims 1 to 9, characterized in that said masking agent containing a 5 carboxylic function represents, in equivalents, at least 10% of all of the masking agents.

11. Composition according to Claims 1 to 10, characterized in that said masking agent containing a carboxylic function represents, in equivalents, at 10 least 20% of all of the masking agents.

12. Composition according to Claims 1 to 11, characterized in that said masking agent containing a carboxylic function contains, per masking agent, not more than 4, advantageously 2, freely rotating methyl 15 or methylene groups.

13. Composition according to Claims 1 to 12, characterized in that said masking agent containing a carboxylic function corresponds to the formula:



20 in which Ar is an aromatic residue to which are grafted n substituents R, m polar functions Z chosen from the carboxylic acid function and salts thereof, and p hydroxyl functions; the values of n, m and p are such that the sum n + m + p is not more than the number of 25 substitutable members, advantageously p is not more

than 2 and it is preferably equal to 1.

14. Composition according to Claims 1 to 13,  
characterized in that said carboxylic function is  
directly linked to an aromatic ring.

5 15. Composition according to Claims 1 to 14,  
characterized in that the masking agent not bearing a  
carboxylic function is chosen from masking agents which  
are known per se.

10 16. Composition according to Claims 1 to 15,  
characterized in that the masking agent not bearing a  
carboxylic function is chosen from oximes, lactams,  
pyrazoles and triazoles.

15 17. Composition according to Claims 1 to 16,  
characterized in that said isocyanate composition is  
formed from an oligo-condensate or an oligomer  
containing at least one masked aliphatic isocyanate  
function.

20 18. Composition according to Claim 17,  
characterized in that said masked aliphatic function is  
connected to the skeleton via an sp<sup>3</sup>-type carbon  
advantageously bearing a hydrogen atom, preferably two.

19. Composition according to Claim 18,  
characterized in that said aliphatic function is  
neither secondary nor tertiary nor neopentyl.

25 20. Composition according to Claims 1 to 19,

characterized in that said isocyanate composition is obtained from an at least partial masking of a mixture obtained by oligomerization or oligocondensation starting with several monomers, at least one of which 5 contains at least one, advantageously two, aliphatic function(s) which is(are) neither secondary nor tertiary nor neopentyl.

21. Composition according to Claim 20,  
characterized in that the unit(s) obtained from  
10 monomer(s) which contain(s) at least one,  
advantageously two, aliphatic function(s) which is(are)  
neither secondary nor tertiary nor neopentyl bear(s) at  
least 1/3, advantageously 1/2 and preferably 2/3,  
masked isocyanate functions.

15 22. Composition according to Claims 1 to 21,  
characterized in that said isocyanate composition is obtained from an at least partial masking of a mixture obtained by oligomerization or oligocondensation starting with several monomers, at least one of which 20 contains a polymethylene chain, the unit(s) obtained from monomer(s) which contain(s) at least one polymethylene chain bearing at least 1/3,  
advantageously 1/2 and preferably 2/3, masked isocyanate functions.

25 23. Composition according to Claims 1 to 22,

characterized in that the masking agent not bearing a carboxylic function is chosen from triazoles.

24. Composition according to Claims 1 to 23,  
characterized in that it also comprises an organic  
5 base, advantageously a tertiary amine.

25. Use, in a powder paint formulation, of  
the composition according to Claims 1 to 24.

26. Coating, characterized in that it can be  
obtained according to Claim 25.

RN97085

Abstract of the Disclosure

**MASKED MIXED ISOCYANATE COMPOSITION AND ITS USE IN POWDER  
PAINT**

The invention concerns an isocyanate composition at least partially masked, characterized in that it is masked by at least two agents, one of which at least has a non-carbon carboxylic function. The invention is applicable to organic synthesis.

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**COMBINED DECLARATION FOR PATENT APPLICATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY**  
 (Include Reference to PCT International Applications) PCT/FR98/01682

 ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NO  
**RN97085**

As a below named Inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

**MASKED MIXED ISOCYANATE COMPOSITION AND ITS USE IN POWDER PAINT**

The specification of which (check only one item below):

- is attached hereto.  
 was filed as United States application

Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_

on \_\_\_\_\_

and was amended

on \_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable)

- was filed as PCT international application

Number PCT/ FR98/01682

on July 29, 1998

and amended under PCT ARTICLE 19

on \_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the patentability of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(e).

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or of any PCT International application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America listed below and have also identified below any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America filed by me on the same subject matter having a filing date before that of the application(s) of which priority is claimed:

**PRIOR FOREIGN/PCT APPLICATION(S) AND ANY PRIORITY CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 119:**

COUNTRY PCT indicate PCT	APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (day month year)	PRIORITY CLAIMED UNDER 35 USC 119	
FRANCE	97/09723	30 July 1997	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
			<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
			<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
			<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
			<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO

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PAGE 1 of 2

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COMBINED DECLARATION FOR PATENT APPLICATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY (Continued) (include Reference to PCT International Applications) <b>PCT/FR98/01682</b>		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NO <b>RN97085</b>		
<p>I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) or PCT International application(s) designating the United States of America that is/are listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in that those prior application(s) in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application(s) and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:</p>				
PRIOR U.S. APPLICATIONS OR PCT INTERNATIONAL APPLICATIONS DESIGNATING THE U.S. FOR BENEFIT UNDER 35 U.S.C. 120				
U.S. APPLICATIONS		STATUS (CHECK ONE)		
U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER	U.S. FILING DATE	PATENTED		
PCT APPLICATIONS DESIGNATING THE U.S.				
PCT APPLICATION NO	PCT FILING DATE	US SERIAL NUMBERS ASSIGNED (if any)		
<p><b>POWER OF ATTORNEY:</b> As a named Inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney's and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith (List name and registration number)</p> <p><u>JOHN A. SHEDDEN - Reg. No. 25,644,</u>  <u>JOHN D. WOOD - Reg. No. 31,148</u>  <u>JEAN-LOUIS SEUGNET - Limited Recognition under 37 CFR § 10.9(b) enclosed</u></p>				
<p>Send Correspondence to:  <b>JEAN-LOUIS SEUGNET</b>  <b>INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPT.</b>  <b>RHODIA INC.</b>  <b>259 PROSPECT PLAINS ROAD</b>  <b>CN 7800, CRANBURY, NJ 08512-7500</b></p>		<p>Direct Telephone Calls to:  <small>(name and telephone number)</small></p> <p><b>JEAN-LOUIS SEUGNET</b>  <b>(609) 860-4180</b></p>		
201	FULL NAME OF INVENTOR <u>BERNARD</u>	FAMILY NAME <u>MORNANT</u>	FIRST GIVEN <u>Jean-Marie</u>	SECOND GIVEN NAME <u>FRX</u>
RESIDENCE & CITIZENSHIP	CITY <u>MORNANT</u>	STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY <u>FRANCE</u>	COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP <u>FRANCE</u>	
POST OFFICE ADDRESS	POST OFFICE ADDRESS <u>Route du Large, St. Laurent d'Agny</u>	CITY <u>MORNANT</u>	STATE & ZIP CODE/COUNTRY <u>F-59440, FRANCE</u>	
202	FULL NAME OF INVENTOR	FAMILY NAME	FIRST GIVEN	SECOND GIVEN NAME
RESIDENCE & CITIZENSHIP	CITY	STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY	COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP	
POST OFFICE ADDRESS	POST OFFICE ADDRESS	CITY	STATE & ZIP CODE/COUNTRY	
203	FULL NAME OF INVENTOR	FAMILY NAME	FIRST GIVEN	SECOND GIVEN NAME
RESIDENCE & CITIZENSHIP	CITY	STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY	COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP	
POST OFFICE ADDRESS	POST OFFICE ADDRESS	CITY	STATE & ZIP CODE/COUNTRY	
<p>I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.</p>				
SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 201 	SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 202		SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 203	
DATE <u>24 January 2000</u>	DATE		DATE	

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